

## Chapter Two

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

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#### 2.1 Overall Park Goals

No previously-articulated, overarching goals have been documented for Lincoln Park. This plan both acknowledges and respects the established patterns of use and apparent intent of numerous past Park improvement projects. It is not the role of this VMP to frame overall goals for Lincoln Park, only to set goals that pertain directly to management of park vegetation.

#### 2.2 Urban Forestry Program Objectives

The following objectives were established to guide the Seattle Parks Urban Forest Restoration Program, established in 1994 to help protect the valuable natural area resource that encompasses approximately half of Seattle's 6000 acre park system. Vegetation management and reforestation plans generated by the Department support these objectives:

- Promote Native Character
- Assist natural processes
- Conserve soil and water quality
- Protect and enhance wildlife habitat
- Buffer land uses
- Insure public safety

#### 2.3 Lincoln Park Vegetation Management Plan Goals and Objectives

The following Goals have been established for this plan, based upon the evaluation of existing resource condition and identification of key vegetation-related issues. Specific objectives are listed under each goal, many of which overlap and reinforce one another.

**Goal:** *Respect the unique landscape character of the park.*

**Objectives:**

- Protect distinctive stands of non-native trees, including Redwood, Golden Rain, Chestnut, Incense Cedar, Oak, Beech and others.
- Ensure maintenance of landscaped beds framing public access paths and forested areas.
- Provide enriching shoreline vegetation tolerant of challenging microclimate and heavy use.
- Maintain greensward (or savanna) character of tree stands linked by mowed grass expanses.
- Exchange invasive ornamentals for similar, noninvasive species to maintain landscape character.

**Goal:** *Protect and enhance native vegetation.*

**Objectives:**

- Eliminate invasive, non-native species from both forested and ornamental landscape areas.
- Supplement existing forest remnants with native trees and understory, to replicate original lowland forest.
- Replenish, foster and monitor health of Pacific Madronas in park.
- Protect native vegetation from invasive plant encroachment by surrounding private development.
- Protect native vegetation by eliminating invasive species from park ornamental landscape plantings.
- Establish native riparian plantings along existing, unbuffered drainage course in upper park.
- Reduce user-caused adverse impacts to native vegetation, including compaction, trampling, dispersal of weeds and spread of soil pathogens.

**Goal:** *Protect and enhance wildlife habitat.*

**Objectives:**

- Increase extent and diversity of native species in park, and improve vegetation structure for wildlife.
- Create habitat features where feasible: tree snags, brush piles, downed woody debris, water sources.
- Expand habitat by linking forested patches and reducing fragmentation caused by informal paths,
- Discourage dogs and cats from using park, except on leash.
- Encourage users to observe, document and foster abundant park wildlife.

**Goal:** *Manage vegetation to support diverse and appropriate human uses.*

**Objectives:**

- Minimize tree hazards in park through active monitoring, pruning, removal and protection of trees from preventable damage by users.
  - Discourage off -trail movement, through improved trail system signage, public education and selective elimination of social trails.
  - Establish and maintain specific view corridors from bluff, particularly at existing bench locations.
  - Maintain routine mowing and turf care for sportsfield activities and informal play and picnicking.
  - Encourage diverse users to participate in restoration efforts, cultivating a positive stewardship role.
- Enhance aesthetic and functional value of vegetation to improve environment for popular park activities (seasonal sunbathing, walking, formal sports, etc.).